[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

(*b*) Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that, in addition to the various difficulties and hardships experienced by the people in the matter of taking green leaf and other manures to the paddy fields in the *eta* referred to above and also in taking the produce to their houses, failure of crops is also caused for want of this road?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state at what stage the correspondence relating to this road stands?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to arrange now at least for the early construction of this road?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) There was correspondence in regard to the opening of the road in 1915 but the matter was dropped as it was found that the proposed road was a costly one and that the existing Villikiri-Rajakkamangalam road, and the Colachel-Parasseri road close by, served the needs of the local ryots fairly well.

(*d*) The matter is being re-considered by the Chief Engineer.

Channels under the Kodayar Scheme.

17. **MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many of the channels, included in the Kodayar Project from the very beginning, still remain to be opened?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to state the reasons for not opening these channels which would add to the revenue and also afford irrigational facilities?

(*c*) Is the Pattanamkal a channel included in the Kodayar Project?

(*d*) Has the question of opening the Pattanamkal received the attention of the Government? Will they be pleased to commence the work in the near future?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Three channels, *viz.*, (1) The Amaravathi *Kal*, (2) Extension of Tiruvitankod channel to Karingal, and (3) Thengapatanam *Kal*.

(*b*) These were not taken up as the Project has not yet developed fully where channels have been already opened, and as it was feared that the existing Tiruvitankod channel would not be capable of supplying water to the extensions.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes. The matter is under the consideration of the Chief Engineer.

Period of Dryage of Salt.

18. **MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) With reference to the statement made by the Dewan at page 45 of the proceedings of the eighteenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly

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in which it is said that "salt must be at least 9 or 10 months old before it can be safely consumed", and to the answer given to part (*a*) of interpellation No. 5 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 30th July 1923, in which it is stated that no definite period has been fixed during which salt should not be used after it has been collected, that it is generally permitted to be issued only after it has become well dried in the drying grounds and that ordinarily about three months is the period required for dryage, will the Government be pleased to state whether these two opinions were submitted to the Government by the Excise Commissioner? If so, which of them is to be accepted?

(*b*) What is the period fixed by the Salt Rules after which the salt collected from the pans may be consumed?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The first opinion does not appear to have been furnished by the Excise Commissioner. Obviously the Dewan's statement in the Assembly was intended only to convey the idea that salt will be fit for consumption after it is properly dried for a few months and not to fix any time-limit for the dryage. The answer to the interpellation was based on information furnished by the Excise Commissioner. The period of three months mentioned there also is only approximate as dryage will depend on a variety of circumstances and an absolute time-limit cannot be fixed for it.

(*b*) The period is not fixed in the Salt Rules but is left to the discretion of the authorities.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ശ്രീമൂലംപ്രജാസഭയിൽവച്ചു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതായ സംഗതികൾക്ക് ഈ മറുപടിയിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള വിലവച്ചാൽ മതിയാകുമൊ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അതു് ഒരു അഭിപ്രായ സംഗതി ാണ്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ഉത്തരത്തിൽ നിന്നും മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു വീണ്ടും ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്. ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ശ്രീമൂലംപ്രജാസഭയിൽവച്ചു് എല്ലാ സംഗതികളും പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ അറിവിനായി പറയുന്നുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങിനെ പറയുന്നതായ കായ്ച്ചലംകു് ഈ മറുപടിയിൽ പറയുന്നമാതിരി ഉള്ള വില കല്പിച്ചാൽ മതിയാകുമൊ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, I request a ruling from the Chair as to whether this question arises as a supplementary question and whether I should answer it.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I did not hear.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar has risen to a point of order as to whether your question arises, in the nature of a supplementary question, directly from the main question and as to whether his further answer is necessary to elucidate the answer given.

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[President.]

What the Dewan has said in reply to other matters raised in the Assembly does not bear directly on what is said in regard to this question. Therefore, your question is not strictly in order.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ കാര്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഇതിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന ദിവാൻജിയുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഇതേനിലയിൽ വിടുവച്ചാൽ മതിയോ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ഉദ്ദേശ്യം മറുപടിയിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിൽ കൂടുതലായി എനിക്ക് ഒന്നും പറയാനില്ല.

Period of Dryage of Salt.

19. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any fixed period for the salt stored to get dried before which it should not be sold, and if so, whether this was observed in the case of all the licensees during the last sale season?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer given to question No. 18 by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether they have obtained expert opinion with reference to the period of dryage of salt?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): In view of the nature of the answer given, may I know whether the Government propose to obtain such expert opinion on the matter?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If expert opinion has already been obtained, it may not be necessary to obtain it again. So, for this question also, I claim notice.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are the Government aware that dryage of salt has got to be scrupulously cared for before salt is sold out for consumption?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member does not seek any information. He is giving information.

Action taken by the Excise Commissioner and the Chief Engineer in connection with the Floods in Tamaracolam Salt Factory.

20. **MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) (i) On what day of Tulam 1101 was there flood in the Tamaracolam Salt Factory? When did the Excise Commissioner get information of this fact?

(ii) When did he visit the Tamaracolam Salt Factory?

(iii) How long did he stay there?

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